Tech News

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1. Call for Proposals - Supporting Innovative Classrooms

Alberta Education is seeking proposals to research innovative practices in the areas of leadership development for the effective use of technology and technology management in Alberta school jurisdictions. This Call for Proposals supports recent investments in school technology, including three-year funding for Innovative Classrooms announced in Budget 2008 and funding for technology infrastructure and classroom technology announced in January 2008.

This Call for Proposals is open to all publicly funded school jurisdictions and charter schools. The deadline for submissions is Monday, October 27, 2008 at 12:00 Noon. A copy of the Call is available online on the Learning and Technology website at http://www.lnt.ca/.

For more information on the Call for Proposals, please contact Dr. Bette Gray, Director, Stakeholder Technology Branch at Bette.Gray@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 780-427-1509 (toll-free by dialing 310-0000 first).

2. Emerge One-to-One Learning Initiative Update

Alberta Education hosted its second Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning summer institute in Calgary on August 21 and 22. Approximately 200 delegates attend sessions on the use of Web 2.0 tools in the classroom, digital citizenship, leadership in one-to-one environments, and technical solutions for wireless learning environments.

The Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning Project is entering its second year and early research results are showing a positive impact on student learning. More information on Emerge is available online at http://education.alberta.ca/admin/technology/emerge.aspx.

3. Career Opportunity, Alberta Education

Alberta Education's Stakeholder Technology Branch is recruiting for the position of Manager, Technology Planning and Management. Details can be found online at http://www.chr.alberta.ca/jobs/postings/051227.HTM. The closing date for applications is **Monday, September 8, 2008.**

4. Stakeholder Technology Branch Staffing Update

Stakeholder Technology Branch has seconded four Education Managers for the upcoming school year.

Lynda Burgess was seconded from St. Albert Protestant Separate School District. She will be working on a wide range of stakeholder events as well as becoming the new branch contact for videoconferencing.

Lynda has 24 years of teaching experience and was most recently the videoconferencing coordinator at Paul Kane High School. This included integrating videoconferencing into a variety of courses and training other teachers on videoconference use.

Lynda can be reached at Lynda.Burgess@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 780-415-8995.

Wendy Nero was seconded from Parkland School Division. She will be working on a range of research and communication projects.

Wendy has 29 years of teaching experience at the elementary level, with background as a district 2Learn.ca Teacher Leader. She has worked with other teachers in Parkland School Division to increase their skills and knowledge regarding the integration of technology into student learning.

Wendy can be reached at Wendy.Nero@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 780-Phone number.

Jeff Rawlings was seconded from Wild Rose School Division. He will be developing a strategy to increase technology leadership capacity throughout the K-12 school system.

Jeff has spent the last 16 years with Wild Rose School Division as a teacher, teacher-mentor, vice principal, network administrator, and assistant superintendent. His involvement with school technology includes sitting Alberta Education advisory committees for the Provincial Approach to Student Information and Provincial Online Assessment.

Jeff can be reached at Jeff.Rawlings@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 780-415-0820.

Marilyn Steier was seconded from Parkland School Division. She will be providing project management and implementation support for the Innovative Classrooms Technology initiative in addition to other research projects.

Marilyn brings experience as a principal, assistant principal, and central office facilitator in the areas of technology, curriculum and student services. She has worked closely with teachers and administrators regarding the coordination and implementation of technology in a range of school settings. Marilyn can be reached at Marilyn.Steier@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 780-415-0839.

5. Upcoming Events

Jurisdiction Technology Contact Events 2008/2009
JTC events have been scheduled for:

- November 21, 2008 (Calgary)
- May 13, 2009 (Edmonton)

Alberta ECS-12 Distributed Learning Summit
Alberta Education is hosting the Alberta ECS-12 Distributed Learning Summit on November 4, 2008. All ECS-12 distributed learning stakeholders, including students, parents, teachers and school administrators are invited to attend and discuss distributed learning in Alberta. More information on the Summit will be available soon and registration for the conference will open in the fall.

For more information on the Distributed Learning Summit, please contact Hélène Fournier at Helene.Fournier@gov.ab.ca.

Alberta Technology Leaders in Education (ATLE) Fall Symposium
ATLE will be hosting its fall symposium, Synergy 2008, from November 5-7, 2008 at the Capri Centre in Red Deer.

For more information and to register for the conference, please visit ATLE's website.

Distributed Learning Symposium 2009
The Distributed Learning Symposium 2009: Embracing and Becoming Drivers of Change will take place on March 11 to 13, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency in Calgary. More information on the Symposium will be available in the near future.

For more information on the Distributed Learning Symposium 2009, please contact Hélène Fournier at Helene.Fournier@gov.ab.ca.

6. LearnAlberta.ca Updates

On August 21, 2008, Learning Technologies Branch launched the pre-release version of the LearnAlberta.ca website, http://new.LearnAlberta.ca. The pre-release site has a new look, additional feature, more content and provides Alberta teachers with access to the digital

learning and teaching supports they need. The pre-release version includes:

- The same online learning and teaching resources from the previous version of LearnAlberta.ca, Online Guides to Implementation, and Tools4Teachers;
- The ability for teachers to create a personal account that provides access to licensed resources and the ability to create a personal "My Workspace" where they can save, annotate, and share lists of resources;
- A change in the way visitors enter the site. Visitors will be required to enter their username and password only when accessing a licensed resource or when accessing "My Workspace"; and
- A new feature that will allow visitors to locate resources within the context of the Program of Studies.

In September and October, both the old and pre-release versions of LearnAlberta.ca will be available to provide a smooth transition for those who rely on the website.

The existing website will remain up and running with the same quality digital learning resources available in English and French. It will continue to be accessible through www.LearnAlberta.ca address. Users can check back weekly to see how the new LearnAlberta.ca site continues to evolve.

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LINKS:
Alberta Education website – Technology section:
http://education.alberta.ca/admin/technology.aspx
LearnAlberta.ca website: http://www.Learnalberta.ca
Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning initiative website:
http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/technology/emerge
Technology and High School Success initiative website:
http://education.alberta.ca/admin/technology/techsuccess.aspx

tech.news is a newsletter targeted to technology leaders in school jurisdictions and post-secondary institutions, and is available to all Alberta educators. Alberta Education's Stakeholder Technology Branch produces the newsletter.

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Send your questions, suggestions, or article submissions to tech.news@gov.ab.ca.

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